CHRONICLES COUNT ANTONIO

BY ANTHONY HOPE. Author of "A Prisoner of Zenda," Etc.

Convright, 1894, by Anthony Hope,

his knee.

night

casting a pitiful glance on him, rose to de

part. But on the instant as he moved there came a sudden loud knocking at the door of

"Have you had warning of more visitors onight?" asked Antonio.
"I know not what happens tonight," mut-

cred the wizard, "My power is gone to-

The knocking at the door came again loud

and impatient.
"They will beat the door down if you do

without being seen, and if I am seen here it is like enough that the mirror will be proved right both for you and me."

So Antonio hid himself, crouching down be-

hind the mirror, and the wizard, baving lit

a small, dim lamp, went on trembling feet t

lowed by two men, whose faces were hid in

their cloaks. And one of them sat down, but the other stood and flung his cloak back over

his shoulders, and Antonio, observing him

from behind the mirror, saw that he was

And Lorenzo spoke to the wizard, saying: "Why did you not come sooner?"
"There was one here with me," said the

wizerd, whose air had become again com-

"And he is gone? For we would be alone,

"He is not to be seen," answered the wizard, "utterly alone here you cannot be."

And when he heard this, Lorenzo turned pale, for be did not like this midnight errand

o the wizard's chamber.
"But no man to here," said the wizard.

A low, hoarse laugh came from the man

"Tricks of the trade, tricks of the trade." aid he, and Antonio started to hear his voice

Be sure that where a prince, a courtier, and cheat are together the devil makes a

turth. But there is no need to turn pal-ver it, Lorenzo."

And when the wizard heard, he fell on his

nees, for he knew that it was Duke Valen

"Look you, fellow," pursued his highness

you owe me much thanks that you are no anged already, for by putting an end to

you I should please my clargy much and th

Syndic of Baratesta not a little. And if you do not obey me tonight you shall be dead

"I shall not die unless it be written in the

"I know nothing of the stars," said th

the chamber, examining the strange object

was and crossed himself secretly and unob

served. "What would my lord, the duke?" aske

"There is a certain drug," said the duke

a man drink-or a woman, Lorenzo-he can

seem to be waking and in his right mind

yet is his mind a nothing, for he knows not what he does, but does everything that one being with him may command, and without

tricks, and he performed them all

"Aye, there is such a drug," said the wiz-

he was seized with great fear, for he sur

mised that it was against Lucia that the duke meant to use this drug, and noiselessly

loosened his sword in its sheath, and

est forward again to listen.
"And though my purpose is nothing to

you, yet it is a benevolent purpose. Is it not, Lorenzo?"

"It is your will, not mine, my lord," sai

was afoot, nor that a plot was laid whereby

And anger burned hotly in him. And he swore that, soner than suffer the thing

to be done he would kill the duke there with

"And you alone know of this drug now, ey say," the duke went on, "for the wizard

"It will not serve, my lord, that I give you

he drug. With my own hand I must give

it to the person whom you would thus affect and I must tell them what they should do."

"More tricks," said the duke, scornfully "I know your ways. Give me the drug,"

nd he would not believe what the wizard

'and if your highness will carry the drug

courself I will not youch its operation."

to the duke, saying:
"Blame me not if its operation fails."

ror, drawing his sword and crying:

also smelt its smell.

The duke examined the phial closely and

"It is the same," said he; "it will do its

Then Count Antenie, who believed no more

"Give me that drug, my lord, or your life nust answer for it."

But fortune served him ill, for, as the duke

and Lorenzo, having drawn their swords, ran upon him, and the duke planted his foot upon his neck, crying:

And Lorenzo bound Antonio's hands as he

turned to the wizard, and a smile bent his

lips.
"O, faithful subject and servant!" said he.

is even as I say," said the wizard

of Florence is dead. Therefore, give it to me

Lucia should be entrapped into mariage with Lorenzo, since she could not be openly forced

his own hand or himself be sla'n.

But the wizard answered;

that were there; and thus he came

ine who spoke.

before morning."

the wizard.

willingly

they say,'

said.

Lorenzo, the duke's favorite.

And presently he came back, fol

CHAPTER IV. mirror?" and he seized Antonio again by th COUNT ANTONIO AND THE WIZARD'S arm. "It is your face," said Antonio, "and it is the face of a dead man, for his jaw has dropped and his features are drawn and

DRUG. The opinion of man is ever in flux, save where it is founded on the rock of true re- wrung."

And the wizard buried his face in such its face in such

lieve, but often our sons shall again receive it. In olden time men held much by magic and black arts, now such are less esteemed; yet hereafter it may well be that the world "You are old," said Antonio, "and death will find new incantations and fresh spells, must come to all. Maybe it is a lie of the the same impulse flowing in a different devil, but if not, face it as a man should."

But the wizard trembled still, and Antonio. channel, and never utterly to be checked or stemmed by the consures of the church or the mocking of disbelievers. As for truthin truth, who knows truth? For the light of the house, and he stood still. And the wizard revelation shines but in a few places, and for lifted his head to listen. the rest we are in natural darkness, groping along unseen paths toward unknown ends.

May God keep our footsteps! Now in the third year of his outlawry the heart of Count Antonio of Monte Velluto had grown very sad. For it was above the space of a year since he had heard news of the Lady Lucia, and hard upon two since he had not open," said Antonio. "I will hide myself here behind the mirror, for I can pass them seen her face, so closely did Duke Valentine hold her prisoner in Florinola. And as he walked to and fro among his men in his hid-ing place in the hills his face was sorrowful. coming where Tommasino and Bena sat together, he stopped and listened to their talk with a smile. For Bena cried to Tom-

"By the saints, my tord, it is even so. My father himself had a philtre from him thirty years ago, and though before my mother had loathed to look on my father, yet now here am I nine and twenty years of age and a child born in holy wedlock. Never tell me that it is foolishness, my lord." never the control of the co 'Of whom do you speak, Bena?" asked

"Of the wizard of Baratesta, my lord. Aye, and he can do more than make a love po-tion. He can show you all that shall come to you in a mirror, and make the girl you love rise before your eyes as though the shape were good fiesh and blood." "All this is foolishness, Bena," said Count

Well, God knows that," said Bena. "But he did it for my father, and as he is twenty years older he will be wiser still by now;" and Bena strade off to tend his horse, somewhat angry that Antonio paid so little heed to his words.

'It is all foolishness, Tommasino," said "They say that of many a thing which gives

a man pleasure," said Tommasino, "I have heard of this man before," continued the count, "and marvelous stories are told of him. Now I leave what shall come to me in the hands of heaven, for to know is not to alter, and knowledge without power is but fretting of the heart-but-" And An-

"Ride, then, if you can, safely, and beg him to show you Lucia's face." said Tomma-sino, "for to that I think you are making." "In truth I was, fool that I am," said An-

start," said the wizard, but his voice trem "But be wary, for Baratesta is but ten miles from the city, and his highness sleeps duke, "but I know the mind of the duke of Forniola, and that is enough for my pur-pose." And he rose and began to walk about with an open eye."
So Antonio, albeit he was in part ashamed,

learnt from Bena where the wizard dwelt on the bridge that was outside the gate of Barathe bridge that was outside the gate the gate the gate there and the syndic would not suffer such of the mirror and stood within half a yard folk to live inside the wall—and one evening of Antonio. But Lorenzo stood where he folk to live inside the wan—and one evening he saddled his horse and rode alone to seek the wizard, leaving Tommasino in charge of the band. And as he went he pondered, saying: "I am a fool—yet I would see her face," and thus, still dubbing himself fool. yet still persisting, he came to the bridge of Baratesta, and the wizard, who was a very old man, and tall and marvelously lean, at the door of the house, crying: looked fer your coming, my lord." And took Antonio's horse from him and stood "I locked for your coming, my lord." ne took Antonio's horse from him and stood it in a stable beside the house and led Antonio in, saying again: "Your coming was known to me, my lord," and he brought Antonio io a chamber at the back of the house, having one window, past which the river, being then in flood, rushed with noise and to lack his senses. I saw the him gonce when I sojourned with the lord of Florence, for a wizard there, having given There were many strange things in the drug to a certain man, put him through chamber, skulls and the forms of ani-strange far-off countries, basing and retorts, and in one corner a mir-

asins and reforts, and in one corner a minor half draped in black cloth.

"You know who I am?" asked Antonio.

"That needs no art," answered the wizard,
and I pretend to run in it. Your face, my
ord, was known to me as to any other man
ord, was known to me as to any other man "and I pretend to run in it. Your face, my lord, was known to me as to any other man seeing you ride with the duke before banishment."

'And you know that I rode hither to-'Aye," said the wizard, "for the stars told me of the coming of some great man, and I turned from my toil and watched for you." "What toil?" asked Antonio. "See, here

is money and I have a quiet tongue. What The wizard pointed to a heap of broken and bent pieces of base metal. "I was turning dross to gold," said he in a

fearful whisper.
"Can you do that?" asked Antonio, smiling "I can, my lord, though but slowly. "And hate to love?" asked Count Antonio. The wizard laughed harshly.

"Let them that prize love seek that," said b. "It is not for me." "I would it had been, then had my errand here been a better one. For I am come but to see the semblance of a maiden's face."

The wizard frowned as he said: "I had looked for a greater matter. For you have a great enemy, my lord, and I have eans of power for freeling men of their ene-

And Count Antonio, knowing that he spoke of some dark device of spell or power, answered:

'Enough! enough. For I am a man of quick temper, and it is not well to tell me of wicked things lest I be tempted to anticipate heaven's punishment.

'I shall not die at your hands, my lord, said the wizard. 'Come, will you see what shall befall you?"

"Nay, I would but see my lady's face, for a great yearning for that has come over me, and, for all I take shame in it, it has brought

You shall see it, then-and if you see more it is not my will," said the wizard, and he quenched the lamp that burnt on the table and flung a handful of some powder on the charcoal in the stove; and the room was filled with a thick, sweet-smelling vapor. And the wizard tore the black cloth off the face of the mirrow and bade Antonio look steadily mirror. And Antonio looked till the vapor that enveloped all the room cleared very sorely put to it to stay quietly where he off from the face of the mirror, and the wizlaying his hand on Antonio's shoulder,
: "Cry her name thrice." And Antonio thrice cried "Lucia," and again waited. And could be conveyed to her. And, although the something came on the polished surface of danger was great, yet his love for Lucia and mirror, but the wizard muttered his fear for her overcame his prudence, and and angrily, for it was not the form suddenly he leapt forth from behind the mirof Lucia nor of any maiden; yet presently he cried low: "Look, my lord, look!" and Antonio, looking, saw a dim and shadowy face mirror, and the wizard began to fling his body to and fro, uttering strange, whis pered words, and the sweat stood on his forehead. 'Now, now!' he cried, and Antonio, with beating heart, fastened his gaze on the mirror. And as the story goes (I vouch not r ii) he saw, though very dimly, the face Lucis; but more he also saw, for beside the face was his own face, and there was a rope about his neck, and the half-shaped arms of a gibbet seemed to hover above him. And

And he shrank back for an instant. What more you see is not my will," said What shall come is only by God's will."

But the wizard clutched him by the arm, whispering in terror: 'It is a gibbet, and the rope is around

ir neck."
Indeed I seem to have worn it there those

drug receive its potency. And so earnest was he in this that at last he half won upon the duke, so that the duke wavered. And, as he doubted, his eye fell on Antonio, and he perceived that Antonio was recovering from his swoon.

"There is no need. He is like a tame dog," said the duke, carelessly.

But the duke was not minded to produce the perceived that Antonio was recovering from his swoon.

"There is no need. He is like a tame dog," said the duke, carelessly.

But the duke was not minded to produce the perceived that Antonio was recovering from his swoon. "There is enough for two," said he "in the

phial; and we will put this thing to the test. But if you speak or move or make any sign whatever, in that moment you shall die." Then the dake poured half the contents of the phial inte a glass and came to Lorenzo and whispered to him:

"If the drug works on him and the wizard proved to lie the wizard shall die, but is proved to lie the wizard shall die, but duke asked him questions, so that his high-we will carry Antonio with us; and when I have mustered my guard I will hang him in garden, sat down in his favorite place by hands, and so they rested awhile till the the square as I have sworn. But if the drug does not work then we must kill him here; for I fear to carry him against his will; felt the body of the wizard shaking against for he is a wonderful man, full of resource, and the people also love him. Therefore, if the operation of the drug fail, run him through with your sword when I give the

signal.

New Antonio was recovering from swoon, and he overheard part of what the duke said, but not all. As to the death of the did not hear, but he understood that the duke was about to test the effect of the drug on him, and that if it had no effect he was to die, whereas if its operation proved sufficient he should go alive, and he saw here a chance for his life in case what the wizard had said should prove true. "Drink, Antonio," said the duke softly.

"No harm comes to you. Drink; it is a re-freshing draught."

And Antonio drank the draught, the wizard looking on with parted lips and with great drops of sweat running from his forehead and thence down his cheeks to his mouth, so that his lips were salt when he licked them. And the duke, having seen that Lorenzo had his sword ready for Antonio, took his stand less fool, even when his body is yet alive.

besought the duke very pitcously and told in exultation.

him again that from his hand alone could the "Yet I will still have my sword ready,"

Antonio to the people till all his guards were collected and under arms, and the people restrained by a great show of force. Therefore he bade Antonio cover his face with his cloak, and Antonio, Lorenzo's sword being still at his breast, obeyed; and thus they three role through the gates of Forniola and came to the duke's palees, and Antonio and came to the duke's palace; and Antonio did all that the duke ordered and babbled foolishly like a bewildered child when the

the fish pond, causing Antonio to stand over against him "Indeed, Antonio," said he, "I can do other han hang you."

ministrations

"If it be your pleasure, my lord." "And then Luces shall drink of this wonderful drug also, and she will be content and chedlent, and will gladly wed Lorenzo. Let us have ther here now, and give it to her without delay. You do not fret at that, Antonic? You love not the obstinate girl?"
"In truth, no!" laughed Antonic; "she is naught to me!" And he put his hand to his head, saying perplexedly, "Lucia! Yes, I re-

member that name. Who was she? Was she aught to me, my lord?" wendered greatly, and the Then Lorenzo doubts that he had held concerning the power of the wizard's drug melted away, but he did not laugh like the duke, but locked on An-

nio, and sa'd sadly to the duke, sinking "Not thus should Antonio of Monte Velluto And Coroqua's horse stumbled among the have died.'

"So he dies, I care not how," answered the duke. "Indeed, I love to see him a wit-



in his hand. And he cried to Antonio: done justice on you! Go, Lorenzo, to the "Rise!" And Antonio rose up. And the officer of the guard, and bid him fetch hither wizard started a step toward him, but the the Lady Lucia, and we will play the pretty duke showed his dagger and said to Antonio: | comedy to the end." Will you go with him to Forniola, An-onio? And Antonio answered, "I will go." "Do you love me, Antonio?" asked the

'Aye, my lord," answered Anton'o. "Yet you have done many wicked things

'True, my lord," said Antonio.

"Commend thy soul to God and leap in." "It is your will, not mine, my lord, said Lorenzo in a troubled voice.
"Mine shall be the crime, then, and yours the reward," laughed the duke. "For I will give her the drug and she shall wed you." Then Antonio doubted no longer of what torse, gaying: not leap." And Antonio stayed his

Then the duke turned his face upon eap. he wizard, saying: "The potion works, wizard. Why did you

And the wizard fell on his knees, cursing hell and heaven, for he could not see how he should escape. For the potion had worked. And Antonio wondered what should fall out next. But Duke Valentine leapt down his horse and approached the wizard, while set his sword against Antonio's And the duke, desirous to make a final trial, cried again to Antonio: courself from your horse." And Antonic from his horse and fell prone on the ground and lay there sorely bruised.

"It is enough," said the duke. "You lied. But the wizard cried: "I lied not, I lied not, my lord. Slay me not, my lord, for I dare not die." But the duke caught him by the throat and

drove his dagger into his breast till the fin-gers that held the dagger were buried in the folds of the wizard's doublet, and the duke "Give it me, for I know the appearance f it," said the duke.

Then the wizard having again protested. pulled out the dagger, and when the wizard fell he pushed him with his foot over the brink, and the body fell with a loud splash went to a certain shelf, and from some hidden recess took a small phial and came with it into the river below.

Thus died the wizard of Baratesta, who was

famed above all of his day for the hidden knowledge that he had; yet he served not God, but satan, and his end was the end of a sinner. And many days after his body was found a hundred miles from that place, and certain charitable men, brethren of my own order, gave it burial. So that he died the same night in which the mirror had shown than the duke what the w zard had said, was him the face as the face of a dead man, but whence came the vision I know not. the phial he might well find means to give it to the Lady Lucia before any warning

Then the duke set Antonio again on his horse, and the three rode together toward Forniols, and as they went again and again the duke tested the operation of the drug, setting Antonio many strange, ludicrous and unseemly things to do and to say, and An tonio did and said them. And he wondered greatly that the drug had no power over him and that his brain was clear and his senses and Lorenzo shrank back at his sudden appearance and he was about to spring on them, behold, his foot caught in the folds of the black cloth that had been over the mirror and now lay on the ground, and, falling forward, he struck his head on the marble rim that ran around the charcoal stove, and, having failen with great force, lay there like a man dead. And with Icud cries of triumph, the duke had more of the relign nor could was the should do, for, having been in a swoon, he knew not whether the duke had more of the relign nor could. having been in a swoon, he knew not whether the duke had more of the potion, nor could he tell with certainty whether the potion would be powerless against the senses of a "What shall come is only by God's will," said Antonio. "I have seen her face. It is enough," "Heaven sends a greater prize. At last, at last I have him! Bind his hands, Lo-enough." Was been her face. It is at last I have him! Bind his hands, Lo-enough." I pray you, my lord, give me more of

And Lorenzo bound Antonio's hands as he that sweet drink. For it has refreshed me lay there, a log for stillness. And the duke and set my mind at rest from all trouble." "Nay, Antonio, you have had enough," said the duke, bantering him. "I have another use for the rest." And they were now

by the wizard with the dagger from his belt | O, rare wizard, I go near to repenting having "Will you be alone with him?" asked Lo-

renze. "Aye, why not? See, he is tame enough, and he buffeted Antonio in the face with his riding glove. And Antonio wh mpered and whined

Now the officer of the guard was in his lodge at the entrance of the palace, on the "It is, my lord," said Antonio, turned and went, and presently the sound of his feet on the marble floor of the hall grew faint and distant. And the hall grew faint and distant. "Go down on your knees and crawl," and with the phial in his hand, smiling at Anntonio crawled, smiling secretly to himself. tonio, who crouched at his feet. And An-Then the duke bade Lorenzo mount An- tonio drew himself on his knees quite close nio on h's horse, and he commanded the to the duke, and looked up in his face with wizard to follow him, and they all went a foolish, empty smile. And the duke, laugh-out where the horses were, and the three mounted, and the wizard followed; and they spring, like the spring of that Indian tiger came to the end of the bridge, and the duke which the Mogul of Delhi sent lately as a turned shary 'round and role by the side gift to the most Christian king, and the king of the rushing river. And, suddenly pausing, for his diversion made to slay deer before him at the chateau of Blois (which I myself saw. being there on a certain missi n, and wonder Ani Antonio commended his soul to God ful was the sight) Antonio was upon the and would have leapt in, but the duke caught duke, and he seized the philtre from the him by the arm even as he set spurs to his duke's hand and seized the duke's head in his hands and wrenched his jaw open, and he poured the contents of the phial down the duke's throat; and the duke swalthe potion. Then Antonio fixed

stern and commanding glance on duke, nailing his eyes to the duke's and the duke's to his, and he said in a voice of : "Obey! You have drunk the And still he kept his eyes on the command: duke's. And the duke, amazed, suddenly began to tremble, and he sought to rise; and Antonio tock his hands off him, but he said: "Sit there, and move not." Then, although Antonio's hands were no longer upon him yet his highness did not rise, but after short struggle with himself sank back in his seat and stared at Antonio like a bird fascinated by a snake. And he moaned: "Take away your eyes; they burn my brain. Take them away!" But Antonio gazed all the more intently at him, saying: "Be still, be still!" and holding up his arm in enforcement of his command. And Antonio took from the duke the sword that he wore and the dagger wherewith the duke had killed the wizard of Baratesta, the duke making no resistance. but sitting motionless with bewildered stare Then Antonio looked around, for he knew that Lorenzo would soon come. And for the last time he bent his eyes again on the duke's eyes in a very long gaze, and the duke cow-

ered and shivered, monning: "You hurt me, you hurt me!" Then Antonio said: "Be still and speak not till I return and bid you," and he suddenly left the duke and the top of his speed along under the rushing up to the duke, and behind Lorenzo, Antonio, having commended himself to the chened his eyes and murmured keeping of God, leapt head foremost from syllabled name that they could not

Now Lorenzo marvelled greatly at what he

And he ran up to the duke and caught him by the arm and shook him violently, seeking to arouse him from his stupor and calling his name with entreaties and crying: "He es-

horizon, seeking your face as you return." "What is all that, my lord?" asked Cor-

of it: but if I must. I must." and the count | her. ook up his position and they crossed swords. Now, Coroqua was well taught and skilful

tonio had learned at the school of Giacomo in Padua, nor had he the strength and endurance of the count. And Antonio would fain hav wearied him out, and then, giving him some slight wound to cover his honor, have left him and escaped; but the young man came at him impetuously neglected to guard himself while he thrust at his enemy; once and again the count spared him, but he did not know that he had received the courtesy, and, taking heart fron his immunity, came at Antonio more flercel: again, until at last Antonio, breathing stiffened his arm and, waiting warily for the young man again to uncover himself thrust at his breast, and the sword's poin intered hard by the young man's heart, and the young man staggered, and would have dropping his sword, but Antonio away his own sword and supported him stanching the blood from the wound and cry ing: "God send I have not killed him."

smile, a young man will tremble as a coward

The Count Antonio stood as though sunk

in a revery, yet, presently, hearing Coroqua tread, he raised his eyes, and, smiling kindly

truth and did not lie to the duke. Yet I have that same power which the wizard

I am of Andalusia and my name Coroqua.

the young man and said courteously:
"Sir, your valor needs no proof and fears

"I am a man, though a young man,

quakes for fear.

And on his speech came the voice of Tom masino, saying carelessly: "Here in truth, cousin, is a good prayer wasted on a Spaniard."
And Antinio, looking up, saw Tommasino

and Bena. And Tammasino said: "When you did not come back we set ou to seek you, fearing that you were fallen into some snare and danger. And, behold, we find you with this young spark; and how you missed his heart, Antonio, I know not, what Glacomo of Padua would say to such bungling."

But Antonio cared not for his cousin's words, which were spoken in the banter that man uses to hide his true feelings, and hey set hemselves to save the young man's life, for Tommasing and Bena had seen the better part of the fight, and perceived that he was a gallant youth. But, as they tended him, there came shouts and the sound of horses' hoofs mounting the hill by the winding road that led past Antonio's house. And Tommasino touched Antonio on the shoulder, saying: "We can do no more for him, and f we linger we must fight again."
Then they faid the young man down, An-

tonio stripping off his coat and making a pillow of it, and Bena brought the horses, for they had led one with them for Antonio in case there should be need of it; and they were but just mounted when twenty of the duke's guard appeared 300 years away, as-cending the crest of the hill. "Thank heaven they are so many," said Antonio, "for now we can fly without shame," and they set spurs to their horses and fled.

And certain of the duke's guard pursued, but only two or three were so well mounted as to be able to come near them, and these two wall of the garden, and came where the wall or three, finding that they would be man to ended, and there was a flight of steps leading man, had no liking for the business, and up on the top of the wall. Running up them, each called out that his horse was foundered; Antonio stood for a moment on the wall, and thus it was that none of them came up the river ran fifty feet below. But he heard a cry from the garden, and beheld Lorenzo returned together to the city, carrying the young Spaniard Coroqua, their captain. But who led a maiden in white. Then Count as they drew near to the gates Coroqua opened his eyes and murmured some soft the top of the wall into the river, and his having with failing fingers signed the cross, body clove the water as an arrow cleaves the turned on his side and died. And they brought his body to the great hall of the

duke's palace.
There in the great hall sat Duke Valentine saw, and came to the duke crying: "My Interest in the great hall sat Duke Valentine. Ind, what does this mean? Antonio fles!" His face was pale and his frown heavy, and But the duke answered nothing, sitting with he gazed on the dead body of the young man empty eyes and lips set in rigid smile; nor did he move. "My lord, what alls you?" qua, and out of love for him had made his cried Lorenzo. Yet the duke did not answer, captain of his guard. And he passed his cried Lorenzo. Yet the duke did not answer.

Then Lorenzo's eyes fell on the fragments of the phial which lay broken on the rim of the fish pond, where Antonio had flung it, and he cried out in great alarm: "The potion! Where is the potion?" And the duke did not answer. And Lorenzo was much be-wildered, and in sore fear, for it seemed as again had the light of reason in them, and though his bighters' senses were cone. And though his highness' senses were gone. And Lorenzo said: "By some means he has drunk the potion."

he listened while they told him how Antonio had himself escaped and had afterward slain Corequa on the top of the hill where Antonio's house had stood. And the duke was very sorry for Coroqua's death, and he looked

round on them all, saying:
"He made of me a log of wood, and not man. For when J had drunk and looked in name with entreaties and crying man. For when I had drunk and capes, my lord, Antonio escapes; rouse yourself, my lord; he escapes!" But the duke did his eyes it seemed to me that my eyes were self, my lord; he escapes!" But the duke did his eyes it seemed to me that my eyes were bound to his, and that I looked on him for bound to his, and that I should do; "Indeed I seem to have worn it there those three years, and it is not drawn tight yet, nor is it drawn in the mirror."

"You have a good courage," said the wizard with a grim smile; "I will show you mere," and he flug another powder on the mirror. But another came, and the shapes passed from the mirror. But another came, and the wizard, with a great cry, fell suddenly on his knees, will a great cry, fell suddenly on his knees, my lord, Antonio escapes; Pous your object on the mean fift heavy, dull eyes to Lound to his, and that I looked on him for no more than lift heavy, dull eyes to Lound began to moan pitfully, saying; individually, saying; individually, saying to cry. And the duke laughed in bitter triumph, sayin

trembling in every limb, for he remembered the aspect of his own face in the mirror and knew that the hour of his death had come.

And he feared mightily to die, therefore he as I saw when I was with the lord of Florence," whispered the duke becomes sick enough to let her nurse and to in the chapel of the blessed virgin in the cathedral, and tomorrow he shall be buried.

And when I am well, and this strange affection is passed from me and hangs no more tion is passed from me and hangs comfort him; and Lucia was as tender to the duke as to the Count Antonio himself, and price of his death from Antonic, together with the reckoning of all else in respect of which he stands in my debt." But the Lady Lucia, hearing this, said

> "My lord, it is by your deed and through your devices that this gentleman has met his from the wall into the river. Go and bring him here, dead or alive, and I will be your death, and the blame of it is yours, and not

> warrant to the duke. But if he be as when I saw him last he will give you small trou-And at her bold and angry words Duke Valentine was roused, and the last of his lan ble. For he was like a child for weakness and folly." And having said this he turned to the duke again and gave his aid to Lucia's guor left him, and he glared at her in wrath suddenly from where he sat and went int his cabinet, Lorenzo attending him. And of the day after he walked first behind the bid Now, the gentleman who commanded the duke's guard at this time, was a Spaniard, by name Coroqua, and he was young, of high courage, and burning to do some great of Coroqua, and his face was very pale, bu his air composed, and his manner as it was deed, "I pray he be as he is wont to be, yet I will bring him to the feet of my lord, the duke." And he ran swiftle the ont to be. For the spell had passed and he was his own man again.

> But Count Antonio heard with great gref of the death of the young man, and was very sorry that he had be n constrained to kill him, and took great blame to himself for seeking counsel of the wizard of Baratesta, where had constrained to the wigard of Baratesta. the duke." And he ran swiftly through the hall and called for his horse, and drawing his sword rode alone out of the city and across the bridge seeking Antonio and say-ing to himself: "What a thing if I take him! And if he slays me—why, I will show that a gentleman of Andalusia can die." whence had come death to the young man n ess than to the weard himself.

> Such is the story of the drug which the Yet he thought for an instant of the house where his mother lived; then he scanned the plain, and he behild a man running some half-mile away; and the man scemed to be making for the hill on which stood the ruins wizard of Baratesia gave to Duke Valenti of Forniola. To me it seems a strange tale but yet it is well attested, and stands on as strong a rock of testimony as anything which of Antonio's house that the duke had burnt. is told concerning the count. Then Coroqua set spurs to his horse, but the man, whom by his stature and gait Corodo not understand, and often I ponder of it, wondering whether the wizard of Buratesta spoke truth, and why the drug which had no qua knew to be Antonio, ran very swiftly, and was not overtaken before he came to the hill, and he began to mount by a very power over Antonio bound the senses and limbs of the duke in utter torpor and helpsteep, rugged path, and he was out of sight in the trees when Coroqua came to the foot. lessness. And once, when I was thus musing over the story, there came to n y cell a monk And Coroqua's horse stumbled among the stones and could not mount the path, and Coroqua leaped off his back and ran on foot up the path, sword in hand. Once he came in sight of Antonio round a curve of the up the path, sword in hand. Once he came in sight of Antonio round a curve of the knowing that his lore was wide and deep, path, three parts of the way up the hill. And Antonio was leaning against the trunk of a tree and wringing the water out of his set before him all the story, asking him he knew of this strange drug. But he smiled cloak. And Coroqua drew near, his sword at me, and, taking the cup that lay by the in hand, and with a prayer to the Holy Virclear, sparkling water, and drank a little, and gin on his lips. And he trembled not with fear, but because fate offered a great prize and his name would be famed throughout held the cup to me, saying:
> "I think the wizard of Baratesta would Italy if he slew or took Antonio of Monte Velluto, and for fame, even as for a woman's have wrought the spell as well with no other

> 'You say a strange thing," said I. "And I do not marvel," said he, "that a duke had no power over Count Antonio, "that for he knew not how to wield such power But neither do I wonder that power lay in Count Antonio to bend the mind of the duke on the young man, he said:
> "Very strange are the ways of heaven, sir.
> I think that the wizard of Baratesta spoke the won heaven, and did not lie to the duke. Yet I pound."
> Then to his will. I warrant you, Anselm, that the wonderful drug was not difficult to com-

> truth and did not lie to the duke. Yet I have that same power which the wizard claimed, although the duke had none over me. We are children, sir, and our game is blind man's buff but all are blinded, and it is but the narrowest glimpse that we obtain now and again by some clever shifting of the handkerchief. Yes there are some a fault hated of the logicians. For heaven things char enough, as their area results in the control of the logicians. For heaven things char enough, as their area results. things clear enough—as that a man should do his work and be clean and true. What senses and limbs of men—has not the poppy would you with me, sir? For I do not think some such effect? And the ancients fabled the like of the lotus plant. But can we conceive that one man should, by the mere I am captain of his highness' guard, and I glance of his eye, have such power over come to bring you, alive or dead, to his presence."
>
> glance of his eye, have such power over another as to become to him by this means, and no other, a lord and master? In truth, "And you are come alone on that errand, sir?" asked Antonio, with a smile that he strove to smother lest it shoul wound the young man's honor.
> "David slew Goliath, my lord," said the Spaniard with a how. Spaniard, with a bow.
>
> Then Count Antonio held out his hand to be God's will to send such light the thing shall be made clear, yet it of later days that, reading this story, they may find in it nothing that is strange unknown to their science and skill. I pe avoid it honorably. For what has happened has left me more in the mood for thinking than for fighting. Besides, sira you are young, and far off in Andalusia loving eyes, and maybe sparkling eyes, are strained to the strained to the devil, as did the wizard of Baratesta. But Count Antonio, being by his guile and droitness and the strained to the devil, as did the wizard of Baratesta. not, delivered out of the hands of Duke Valentine, abode with his company on the hills throughout the cold of winter, expecting and I am here to carry you to the duke." the day when he might win the hand of the And he touched Antonio's sword with his, Lady Lucia; and she returned to her house, saying "Guard yourself."
>
> "It is with great pain and reluctance that I take my sword, and I call you to witness ness, but rather used more severity with It is an evil service to a proud m to aid him in his day of humiliation.

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